
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING LEGACY OF LIFE HAWAII AND HONORING KEKOA ROBERT
NELSON, BRONSON "DUKE" NAINOA DE REGO, JENS MAGELSSSEN, AND
THEIR RESPECTIVE FAMILIES WHO HAVE SELFLESSLY GIVEN THE
GIFT OF LIFE DURING NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH.

1 WHEREAS, with hectic schedules and the demands of everyday
2 life, some of us often forget how blessed we are to have
3 healthy, functioning bodies; for more than 120,000 people in the
4 nation, they unfortunately do not have operating organs, and
5 must await organ transplants to save their lives; and
6

7 WHEREAS, organ donors can be considered as everyday heroes,
8 selflessly giving a part of themselves to restore the lives of
9 others, and as a result of these individuals' ultimate
10 sacrifice, in 2013, 28,953 organ transplants were performed,
11 giving hope and a second chance to the individuals who received
12 these gifts of life; and
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14 WHEREAS, April is designated as National Donate Life Month
15 in efforts to raise awareness about organ, eye, and tissue
16 donation and transplantation; encourage Americans to register as
17 donors; and celebrate those who have saved lives through the
18 gift of donation; and
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20 WHEREAS, Legacy of Life Hawaii is a local non-profit
21 organization working to save and enhance lives by recovering
22 organs and tissue for transplant; and through community outreach
23 and education, it promotes organ donation and provides donation
24 counseling for families and medical staff, as well as honoring
25 and supporting local organ donors and their families; and



1 WHEREAS, Kekoa Robert Nelson became an organ donor at eight
2 years old after a tragic accident took his life; Kekoa was a
3 gifted child who charmed others with his wonderful stories; he
4 loved being around his friends and family and staying active;
5 Kekoa aspired to be an astronomer one day; though suffering a
6 heartbreaking loss, Kekoa's parents, Michael and Frances Nelson,
7 continued his legacy by choosing to donate his organs; Kekoa's
8 gift of kidneys, lungs, and heart valves has changed the lives
9 of those in need and the Nelson family now works diligently to
10 educate the Maui community about the vital need for organ
11 donations; and
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13 WHEREAS, Bronson "Duke" Nainoa De Rego became an organ
14 donor in 2010 after an untimely tragedy took his life; Duke was
15 always happy and smiling and had the desire to help others; he
16 played for Honoka'a High School's junior varsity football team,
17 and was anticipating trying out for the junior varsity baseball
18 team; Duke's donation of kidneys and liver saved the lives of
19 three individuals, and his cornea donation restored sight to two
20 others; Duke's mother, Shirley De Rego, established The Alex and
21 Duke De Rego Foundation in honor of her two beloved sons, and to
22 promote the necessity for organ donation in her community; and
23

24 WHEREAS, in 2014, Jens Magelssen became an organ donor
25 after a tragic accident took his life; Jens was an honored
26 Honolulu Police Officer who was known for his compassionate and
27 gentle heart; he loved living life with his son Luke by playing
28 basketball and video games together; Jens also honored and
29 respected his parents, David and Penelope Magelssen; the
30 Magelssen family has found hope in knowing that others will live
31 because of Jens' ultimate gift of organ and tissue donation;
32 now, therefore,
33

34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
36 Session of 2015, that this body extends its sincerest gratitude
37 and appreciation to these individuals and their families for
38 their gifts of life; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recognizes April as
2 National Donate Life Month to raise awareness about the
3 importance of organ donation.
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OFFERED BY:

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